

STUDY ABROAD REPORT

You should upload/send this report **within 2 months** after the end of your stay abroad to Mobility Online (Joint Study) /send via e-mail (CEEPUS). You should also upload the confirmation of your stay abroad from your host university as well as the equivalence list signed by the dean after your mobility to Mobility Online (Joint Study)/send via e-mail (CEEPUS). If you should not fulfil these requirements it is possible that your whole study grant will be revoked (see letter of acceptance). Queries: jointstudy@boku.ac.at or ceepus@boku.ac.at

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: **Anonym**
- Study programme: **H 066 416**
2. Host university: **Lincoln University**
 Host country: **New Zealand**
3. Your period
 of stay: from **10. 2. 23** to **23. 6. 23**
 Study year: **22/23**

FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

4. Information about the host university. How helpful were the following sources of information?

(Please enter a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful):

Homepage of the host university	3
Students / friends	5
Teachers at BOKU	3
Curricula	4
Host university	4
BOKU International Relations	3
Other: Talking to students that had been to LU in past semesters	5

5. How would you evaluate your ability in the language of the host university?

(1 = weak to 5 = excellent)

	Before your stay abroad					After your stay abroad				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Listening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. Languages of care/support at the host university and their use in percentage:

Language of care was German: Yes No

1.) English	100 %	3.)	%
2.)	%	4.)	%

What recommendations would you give to future students about the host country and university? (Questions 7 -14) Please give tips, sources of information, contacts, and links

7. Host country

New Zealand is a beautiful country to visit, with a very unique landscape and perhaps the most friendly people on the planet. Besides the wonderful fern forests and mountains, expect to see lots of sheep and farmland. If you make the most of your stay, you should be able to fit in travelling both islands. In my experience, there is more to do/see on the South Island than the North, perhaps plan 2 and a half for the North and 4 weeks for the South.

My personal highlights:

SOUTH ISLAND:

Near Christchurch:

- hike to Taylors Mistake
- Sumner Beach
- Riverside Market
- Akaroa peninsula

- The Abel Tasman trail (3 day hike along the coast, so beautiful !!!)
- The city of Dunedin
- The city of Wanaka (go to the cinema there, very old-fashioned inventory and home-made cookies and icecream!)
- Queenstown (yes, very touristic, but enjoyed it a lot)
- Wharariki Beach (baby seals!!)
- Hooker Valley, especially Mueller Hut hike (view of Mt Cook, glacier lakes)
- Kaikoura (nice surfer town)
- Arthurs Pass (lots of hiking opportunities)
- Lake Tekapo & Lake Pukaki (beautiful scenery!)
- Edoras
- Stewart Island (lots of untouched forest (kiwi territory!), recommend the 3 day Rakiura Track there)

NORTH ISLAND:

- Egmont national park (Mt. Taranaki)
- Tongariro national park
- 90-mile beach
- Roturua
- Bay of Islands (take the inexpensive ferry to beautiful town Russel)
- town of Raglan (cute surfer town)
- Wellington (if you like movies, going to the Weta Cave might interest you)
- Roturua (hot water streams and red-wood forests)

8. Host university

LU is quite different from BOKU, the lectures were very interactive, with a lot of focus on discussions. There is a large workload, including weekly reading assignments, essays, etc., which are individually assessed and together make up the final grade of the course. None of my 3 courses included an exam, which was great for me since I was able to finish the assignments before the official end of the semester and start my roadtrip early.

I feel that I learned a lot at LU, especially the course ECOL608, which I can recommend to anyone who is just starting to do their thesis, want hands-on experience in grant proposals, scientific communication, the peer-review process etc. (anyone who wants to stay in academia really).

A cool thing about LU is the many clubs you can join for free time activities. Check them out here: <https://www.lusa.org.nz/clubs>

Also, caring for student wellbeing is a priority, assistance is offered for all kinds of issues (health (doctor on campus), mental well-being, integration, accommodation, IT etc.)

9. To what extent did you feel socially integrated?

(1 = not at all to 5 = very well)	1	2	3	4	5
in the local culture/community in general	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with international students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. Which contact person (at BOKU/the host university) helped you organise your stay abroad?

At BOKU, support came from the International Relations and Joint Study staff, at LU the main contact person was Carol Fan; the LU Accommodation Services also gave support in organizing the stay/ tuition fees etc. A point of critique: Much of the organisation still was left for us incoming students to do ourselves, as for longer time periods, important contact persons were unavailable (on holidays until..) without having a stand-in.

11. How would evaluate the general advice and help given in administrative matters?

(Please give a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful)

at BOKU International Relations	4
from teachers at BOKU	3
from the host university	3
from students at the host university	2
from others: fellow BOKU students	5

12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

The application process is time-consuming, it could be improved by giving students better templates and clearer explanations for some documents. Maybe see this guide written by a former NARMEE tutor for the Mobility Online website:

https://boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H05000/H12000/Baum_2012/D-International_Master/B-_Euroleague_for_Life_Sciences_ELLS_/NARMEE/A_NARMEE_Student_s_Guide_for_an_exchange_to_New_Zealand.pdf .

The NZ Visa in my case arrived after 2 weeks, but it doesn't hurt to apply asap.

Be sure to apply for accomodation at LU right after you have recieved the email about the different possibitites of living at LU from the accomodation services! There is limited space available. I recommend living on campus.

Financial support is recieved via the Narmee Joint Study scholarship (1750€), which in my case was enough to cover the travel costs.

13. Can you give advice and suggestions regarding the social aspect of your host country/university (cultural differences, importance of language ability etc.)?

New Zealanders are some of the most friendly people I have ever met, and love to converse; you will very likely have great conversations with people you have never met and will perhaps never see again.

It was fascinating to see how intertwined the native Maori culture is with the white ("pakeha") culture. Although Maori are a minority with similar struggles to those of other native peoples, it is clear that their culture is greatly respected and valued in the country. Although many Maori words are used in the NZ English language, you will get by fine if you understand and speak English, even if the dialect of some kiwis (New Zealanders) may be hard to understand at first.

The kiwi cuisine consists of much fried food, I wasn't able to identify any typical New Zealand dishes besides scones, pies and "toasties", which is toast topped with canned spaghetti and cheese. But do try TimTams chocolates and Bundaberg Gingerbeer, missing them already! (Vegetarian options are at times still hard to come by, but at least supermarkets offer a lot of options!)

14. Were there events organised especially for exchange students during your stay?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:

International days at the start of the semester, a few get-together events (lunches etc.), and the possibility to join the internationals club.

The main social media platform used at LU (by staff and students) in my time there was Facebook. I recommend following LUSA (LU student association) to keep up to date with events: <https://www.facebook.com/studentsatlincoln>

ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS

15. What was your primary residence during your stay?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student dormitory | <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel / guest house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Room in a private apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> own private apartment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flat share with other students | |

16. Who helped you look for accommodation?

- Host university
- Friends/family
- Housing market
- Other:

17. How helpful was the host university in looking for a room?

(1 = not helpful to 5 = very helpful)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

18. How would you evaluate the quality of the accommodation? (1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

19. How would you evaluate the availability and/or accessibility of assistance given during your studies (regarding for example the library, computer rooms, labs, equipment etc.)?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

20. How would you evaluate the accessibility and/or quality of computers and email services at the host university?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

21. Expenses during your stay abroad (in Euros):

Travel costs (for a single return journey): 1100 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 950 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	500	€ / Month
Food	300	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	150	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	0	€ / Month
Study fees	0	€ / Month
Other:		€ / Month

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

22. How would you evaluate your stay abroad from an academic point of view?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

23. How would you evaluate your stay abroad from a personal point of view?

(1 = unsatisfactory to 5 = highly satisfactory):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

24. Which aspects of your stay abroad did you like the most?

From an academic point of view:

I loved the interactive courses at LU and doing the assignments (although the workload was immense compared to BOKU courses). I enjoyed essay writing and feel like it was a great practice of scientific writing, and the feedback from lecturers very helpful. It was also great that lecturers offices were also always open to students for answering questions, or

discussing assignments. Every lecturer I got to meet was more than happy to give advice. Also, although the courses are a lot of work and require time and effort, me and my fellow Narmees were happy with the grades we achieved.

From a social/cultural point of view:

I loved being in an English speaking environment, and especially living on campus (at Farm Road), I got to interact daily with local staff and students. Although mainly undergrad students live on campus (postgrads often have moved to Christchurch), I made a few kiwi friends, and attended some LUSA events that were great fun. I recommend visiting the Laboratory (pizza restaurant), in Lincoln, as well as the Famous Grouse (bar), had a lot of good times there.

Good to know: in New Zealand, you don't give a tip at a restaurant. You'll be looked at very strangely if you try. Also, just so you're warned, burping is not really considered rude, kiwis do it all the time.

25. Did you have any problems during your stay abroad?

Nothing worth mentioning - overall a pretty smooth ride.

26. Will your academic progress at BOKU be hindered as a result of your stay abroad?

Yes No I don't know

If yes, please explain why:

27. How could the Joint Study and student exchange programme be improved in your opinion?

Students ought to be informed that LU expects everyone to purchase the StudentSafe inbound insurance, for which the LU coordinator must be contacted. In my semester, some of us outgoings had already purchase another insurance and ended up with two.

General Report

Short feedback on your stay: attended lectures, seminars, excursions, etc.

Other things you found interesting, you think future students should know, problems, general tips and recommendations...

My semester at LU was a great experience. I was able to see much of the county and enjoyed life on campus. Most of the friends I made were other internationals, especially my fellow Narmees, since it was a bit difficult to hang out with other local students doing their masters (they tended to live farther away and only came to uni for classes). However, I did make a few kiwi friends and got to enjoy student life at Lincoln. I was happy with the courses I chose, especially ECOL608, their content and the lecturing style (note the classes did however focus primarily on New Zealand relevant topics).

There are so many different things to do (the clubs, the free gym and sport classes, and of course travelling), it was at times hard to fit in everything with the workload of the classes.

I recommend living on campus, as it is very convenient to be in walking distance of classes, study spaces and the gym, and I much enjoyed the little student community we had in Farm Road (in my opinion the best dormitory).

I bought a used car with two of my fellow Narmees, which allowed us to do a lot of travelling (public transport is bad). Buying a car to me seem essential. In New Zealand it is very uncomplicated to buy and resell vehicle, we bought ours from a used-car broker (other options would be various Facebook Groups and the trading platform TradeMe). Just make sure to read up on requirements before purchasing (WOF-permit, etc.). Make sure to insure your car, New Zealands are sometime quite rowdy drivers and in some case drive off after damaging your car. Also, bring an international drivers licence, it is essential.

If you plan to use the ferry from the North to the South island at some point, be aware that at time it does not work and your ticket may be cancelled. Also, book in time, tickets are often sold out fast.

If you are camping (or sleeping in the car), there are many cheap/ free camping spaces. The app CamperMate is of great help. If you stay at the Top10 Holiday parks, consider buying the membership card (it pays off in NZ, you get a % of for the ferry ride, and also gives you % off in the Big4 Holiday Parks in Australia, if you're going there as well).

When travelling, always make sure to check if a campsite/ hiking track etc. is open on the DOC website (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/>).

The best place to find wild kiwis is apparantly Stewart Island.

Always double check the weather, ist very unstable.

The last two questions

What did you gain the most out of your stay abroad?

It was a once in a lifetime experience, I made friends for life and my studies also benefitted a lot from the time at LU. My stay gave me an insight into an entirely different culture and broadened my horizon.

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

It seems like a lot of effort to organize the trip, and it will be more expensive than if you choose to go to Prag. However, going to Lincoln is a great opportunity, both academically and if you want to spend time in New Zealand. It seems that any Narmee student in the past who has wanted to go to New Zealand also recieved the study place and was sponsored, so if you want to apply, go for it!

Before going, get in touch with other students going/ students that were there last semester (it makes organisation easier, and students that were there may have things to pass on or sell, in our instance a bike, a car etc.).

LU offers a free pick up from the airport when you arrive, contact the coordinator if you are interested.

You can buy a bedding pack from the accomodation services at LU, but buying them from stores like Kmart is much cheaper.

The Skinny mobile phone service seemed to me and my fellow students the best deal.

Some apps/ websites that may be of use:

- Gaspy (cheapest petrol near you)
- CamperMate (campsite etc. near you)
- MapsMe (offline map of NZ)

- TradeMe (NZ Willhaben)
- also check out facebook for buying used items

- <https://www.facebook.com/studentsatlincoln> (LUSA FB page)

Many thanks for your support!

Publication of this report

I agree that this report, including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, length of stay), will be published on the website of BOKU International Relations for the purpose of exchanging information on the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can be informed about your experience at the host institution.

Yes No

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time in the future without giving reasons. Any revocation can be declared at any time by e-mail to joinstudy@boku.ac.at.